



NORTH PARISH

Weekly

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY / SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

## Embracing Transformation in Lent

### **Kia ora e te whānau,**

As we continue our journey through the sacred season of Lent, our hearts are drawn to contemplate the transformative power of the Transfiguration of Jesus. This divine moment on the mountain offers us not only a glimpse of Christ's radiant glory but also a profound invitation to embrace transformation in our own lives.

In the hustle and bustle of our daily routines, it's easy to overlook the deeper significance of Lent. Yet, amidst the noise of the world, Lent calls us to pause, reflect, and realign our hearts with the heart of Christ. It beckons us to embark on a journey of spiritual renewal, guided by the three pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Prayer:** One practical way to grow closer to Jesus is through prayer. Just as Jesus often withdrew to pray in solitude, let us carve out moments of quiet prayer in our busy lives. Whether it's setting aside time each day for personal prayer, attending Mass more frequently, or spending time with Jesus in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, let us nurture our relationship with God through heartfelt conversation and contemplation.

**Fasting:** Fasting, another pillar of Lent, invites us to detach ourselves from worldly comforts and desires, allowing us to focus more intently on our spiritual journey.

While traditional fasting from food remains a meaningful practice, we might also consider fasting from distractions that hinder our relationship with God. We might challenge ourselves to fast from excessive screen time, gossip, or negative self-talk, redirecting our focus towards prayer and self-reflection.

**Almsgiving:** Finally, almsgiving calls us to extend God's love and compassion to others, especially those in need. As followers of Christ, we are called to be instruments of His mercy and generosity in the world. This Lent, let us seek out opportunities to serve our community with kindness and compassion. Whether it's volunteering at a local shelter, donating to a charitable cause, or simply offering a listening ear to someone in need, let us embody the spirit of almsgiving in our daily lives.

As we reflect on the Transfiguration, let us heed the call to embrace transformation in our hearts and lives. May this Lenten season be a time of deep spiritual renewal and growth for each of us, as we strive to become more like Jesus in thought, word, and deed.

Together, let us journey towards the light of Easter with hope and anticipation, knowing that Christ walks with us every step of the way.

**Mā te Atua e manaaki,**

*Fr Alister Castillo*

## NORTH PARISH COMMUNITY GATHERING

SUNDAY 3 MARCH / 2 - 4PM  
ST JOSEPH'S PASTORAL CENTRE

FINANCE AND BUILDING COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS  
MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM  
Q & A

## PARISH PRIEST

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## ASSISTANT PRIESTS

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## SCHOOLS COORDINATOR

### Maria Surrey

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027 337 8430

## FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Graeme Wilson

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

buildingchair@christchurchnorth.org.nz

## PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

### Christ the King - Ph 358 2708

Tom Wallis

### St Albans Catholic - Ph 355 7538

Abraham Atherton

### St Joseph's - Ph 352 8779

Aaron Richards

### St Patrick's - Ph 351 5590

Nathan Burford

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday, 9am-2pm

The priests are available for emergencies by phoning the presbytery directly on **03 359 0444**

## FOR ANY PRAYER REQUESTS.

**TEXT 021 413 659**

# PATRON UPDATE

Dear Parishioners,

We appreciate your patience as we carefully consider the selection of a patron for the parish. Due to the significance of this decision, we have made adjustments to ensure a thorough review of the submitted names. Consequently, the timeline has been updated.

### **Weekend of March 2nd/3rd: The parish will be presented with the top three patron choices for voting.**

#### **How were the top patrons selected?**

Following the closure of submissions, Fr. Alister compiled all suggested patron names and counted the votes. However, two of the top suggestions (St. Joseph & Holy Family) are unable to be considered due to the Bishop's directive. We are unable to use St. Joseph as it was the name of the former parish of Papanui, and we have recently learned that The Holy Family has been granted as the Patronal name for the Catholic Parish of Christchurch West.

With some patron suggestions receiving an equal number of submissions, and not including these two patronal names, we have identified the seven top patron suggestions which are:

- St. Teresa of Calcutta,
- St. Vincent de Paul,
- Christ the Redeemer,
- St. John the Evangelist,
- St. John Paul II,
- St. Michael the Archangel,
- St. John the Baptist.

#### **Choosing the Top Three Patrons for Voting.**

The Leadership team, parish staff, and priests will collaboratively reduce the list of seven to three through a discernment process. Each member will rank their top three choices. Points will be assigned to these choices (1st choice = 3 points, 2nd choice = 2 points, 3rd choice = 1 point). The three top patrons will be determined based on the total points received.

Next weekend, there will be a handout containing brief biographies of the three selected patrons for your consideration at home.

#### **Weekend of March 9th/10th: Parish Voting for the Patronal Name.**

Voting will take place at all Masses during this weekend. Those unable to attend Mass can vote on the parish website.

Once again, we thank you for your patience and ask for your continued prayers for guidance from the Holy Spirit as we select a Patron for our Parish.

### **NOTICE TO THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF CHRISTCHURCH NORTH**

Our Finance and Building Committees intend to request that Msgr. Rick submit a petition to Bishop Michael for the approval to deconstruct St Matthew's Church.

The process being followed is that defined by the Diocese to ensure that steps taken are in keeping with the specific sections of Canon Law.

At the meeting next weekend, 3 March, the Building and Finance Committee Chairs will speak to and be available to discuss this process

*Robert de Roo - Building Committee Chairperson*

*Graeme Wilson - Finance Committee Chairperson*



### **WEEKLY MASSES AT OUR PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

All parents, grandparents and parishioners are invited to join the students and staff for weekly Mass during term time.



### **ST PATRICKS SCHOOL**

**Every Monday, 9am in the Hall (Jeffreys Rd)**

*Please note: no Mass Apr 1.*

### **ST ALBANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Every Friday, 9am in the school chapel**

(entrance off Somme Street)

**Our vision for the Catholic Parish of Christchurch North is of a missionary parish  
bringing people to come to know Jesus Christ personally,  
helping them grow as disciples, and going out to others with the Gospel message.**

**CAN YOU HELP?**

We are looking for more people to assist with ministries at St Bede's College Chapel for Sunday morning 9am Mass. If you can assist please let Judith know: [pastoral@christchurchnorth.org.nz](mailto:pastoral@christchurchnorth.org.nz)

**FRIENDSHIP AND DINING GROUP**

Our year begins with us meeting at Christ the King Church on Thursday, 29 February at 11.30 am. We will share transport and travel to a local venue this side of the city for lunch. Please RSVP to Michele Ward 358-4304 by Tuesday, 27 February. Bring along your friends and join us.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
Every Friday in Lent, 7pm at  
St Gregory's Church**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service will be held at St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, 94 Farrington Avenue at 10 am, on Friday, 1 March. The liturgy this year is prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine. All welcome."

**SISTER XAVIER RJM**

Sister Xavier, now retired in Ireland, who for many years was a wonderful and well loved parish sister at St Matthew's, is turning 100 years of age this month. We join together in wishing Sister a very special happy birthday. May God Bless you abundantly.

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

Meets at St Gregory's Church on Wednesday, 6 March at 7:30pm. If you would like more information, you can contact Andre de Roo on 0220824143.



**DADS DAY AT THE BEACH**

This event is for dads and their children to come down to Spencer Park Beach for fun in the sun.

**Sunday, 10 March - 1pm (weather dependent) BYO food and drink** Come prepared for a sand castle competition by the surf club and beach cricket. If you would like to help with this event or need more information please call Andre de Roo 0220824143. Hope to see you there.

**PARISH COLLECTION - JANUARY 2024**

	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Automatic Payments	\$44,915	\$50,000
Planned Giving Envelopes	\$10,332	\$9,500
Loose Cash	\$7,330	\$6,000
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$62,577</b>	<b>\$65,500</b>

*Thank you for your generous gifting to the Parish*

**WE ARE HIRING - MALE YOUTH GROUP LEADER**

We are looking for a male Youth Group Leader whose primary role is to support the Youth & Young Adults Coordinator in running our Parish Youth Groups.

**This is a paid, 5 hour per week position (Sunday, 3 - 8pm)** between Jan/Feb

(depending on when Youth Group Begins) through to Dec. Email Fr Alister with an expression of interest and a job description will be sent to you.



**YOUTH GROUP BACK AT ST BEDE'S THIS WEEK!**

**Sunday 25 February, St Bede's College PAC**

Year 7-8 Students: 4 - 5pm / Year 9-13 Students: 6:30 - 8pm  
Mass at 5pm & Dinner at 6pm (**Bring a plate to share for dinner**)  
We'd love you to come, and feel free to bring a friend! Register at <https://www.christchurchnorth.org.nz/youth>

**YOUTH GROUP LEADERS**

We are looking for some volunteer leaders who are available on Sunday nights to help lead our Youth Groups. This would be for either the Junior Youth Group (4-5pm), Senior Youth Group (6.30-8pm), or both (4-8pm). If you are interested in becoming a leader, even on the occasional Sunday, contact Hannah at [hannah@christchurchnorth.org.nz](mailto:hannah@christchurchnorth.org.nz) or call/text her at 0210 887 5243

**GIRL'S GROUP**

Come along to our fortnightly Wednesday night Girl's Youth Groups at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre. This Wednesday 28th we have a special guest - Sr Giovanna Maria joining us. We will have a mixture of games, talks and a cupcake decorating competition! If you have any questions, contact Hannah at [hannah@christchurchnorth.org.nz](mailto:hannah@christchurchnorth.org.nz)

**KAI FOR THE COMMUNITY** is a charitable trust that provides a two course meal each Sunday for the homeless and vulnerable. They rely on parish groups to provide food, serve and clean up. The North Parish has volunteered to do three Sunday evenings this year and the first of these is **Sunday, 10 March**.

More details will be provided in next weeks bulletin, but if you are able to assist please contact John Dooley (coordinator) at [helenjohndooley@hotmail.com](mailto:helenjohndooley@hotmail.com) or telephone/text 021-908-130

*Upcoming Events*

- 28 Feb** Girls' Summer Youth Group  
6pm, St Joseph's Pastoral Centre
- 3 Mar** Parish Community Gathering  
2-4pm, St Joseph's Pastoral Centre
- 10 Mar** Dad's Day at the Beach  
1pm, Spencer Park Beach

Please send all bulletin messages and noticeboard posters to [bulletin@christchurchnorth.org.nz](mailto:bulletin@christchurchnorth.org.nz)  
Deadline - 9am Wednesday Morning and are at the discretion of the Priests and Administration Team.



## MASS TIMES

### SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm- St Gregory's Church

6pm - St Gregory's Church

### SUNDAY MASSES

8 am -St Gregory's Church

9 am - St Bede's Chapel

10 am - St Gregory's Church

11 am - St Bede's Chapel

5 pm - St Bede's Chapel

### WEEKDAY MASSES

#### **Monday - Friday**

7 am & 9:15 am (No 7 am on Public Holidays)

#### **Tuesday & Thursday**

Noon - St Gregory's Church

#### **Saturday**

9:15 am (Reconciliation follows)

#### **Wednesday** (during term)

1:05pm - St Bede's Chapel

*\* Please note: a Funeral Mass may replace a Weekday Mass \**

## RECONCILIATIONS

#### **Wednesdays**

6pm - 6:30pm

Christ the King Pastoral Centre

#### **Saturdays**

9.45 am - 10.45 am

St Gregory's Church

[ or by appointment ]

## ROSARY

St Gregory's Church

**Mon-Sat** - After 9.15am Mass

**Wednesday** - 2 pm

**Thursday** - 11:30 am

**Saturday** - 5.40 pm

**BAPTISMS** are held on the fourth weekend of each month.

For more information view the Sacrament page on our website.

## CATHOLIC STALL

St Gregory's Church

Sunday after the 8am & 10am Mass

## CHURCH PHYSICAL ADDRESSES

St Gregory's - 26 Cotswold Ave

St Bede's Chapel - 210 Main North Road (entry off Momorangi Crescent)

## PREFERENCE TO ATTEND A CATHOLIC PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Please see the link below, this will direct you to all information relating to obtaining preference for your child to attend a Catholic primary or secondary school. Please note that the **next preference signing will be next Friday, 1 March between 3-4pm at our parish office.**

<https://www.christchurchnorth.org.nz/schools-enrolment>



## Book of Memories

**24 Feb:** Mary Bateman, John Ellis.

**25 Feb:** Eric Rowe, Regina Townshend, Catherine Gregory, Bernard Barrow, John Keenan, Richard Rowe, Norah McCormick, Winifred (Pat) Lam.

**26 Feb:** James Gallagher, Valerie Mildon, Alma Green, Phyllis Lattimore.

**27 Feb:** Kevin Gallagher, Aileen Hartley, Trudo Wylaars.

**28 Feb:** Joyce Prendergast, Colleen Madden, John Howard, Clare Harris.

**29 Feb:** Jennifer Anderson.

**1 Mar:** Benjamin Simmons, Caecilia Van Irsel, Jeanette York.



## Please pray for the following intentions

**Those who have recently died:** Julie McFadzien, Ena Courtney, Theresa Wall, Frances Barltrop, Derek Conway, Veronica Gray, Michael Hughes, Jerry Kuipers.

**Mass Intentions:** Margret Collins (Ann.), Sister Farida Anisy (Ann.), Father Gerard Kane (Ann.)

**Those who are sick:** Marie Walker, Margaret Frost, Judy Gilmore, Beverley McLorinan, Mary Arscott.

*If you know someone who needs our prayers please let Melonie know in the parish office.*

**Please note** that names submitted will remain on the list for a month. At the end of this time they will be removed. If you would like them to remain on for longer please let us know.

**Please pray for those who need our prayers and those who have nobody for pray for them.**



## John Paul II Centre for Life - Grief Support

A welcome invitation for those who have lost loved ones. Join us for a Holy hour of Adoration and a Seven Sorrows Rosary on the 4th Sunday of each month. Commencing 7.30am - Sunday, 26 February, at St Teresa's Church, 8 Puriri St, Riccarton (after the 7am Mass) God Bless Megan Emery (Pastoral Support @JP2)